

**Foxborough Council on Aging and Human Services  
Board Meeting May 21, 2009**

**Present: Chairperson Joanne Pratt, Vice Chairperson Wendy Haney, Lloyd Gibbs Elaine Biggeri, Colin Haney, Ann Alibrandi, Nancy Sullivan, Jerry Norwood and Director Vicki Lowe**

**Absent/ Excused: Ed O’Leary**

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Minutes of May 4, 2009 Special Meeting were accepted as written

Budget

Vicki advised that the van air conditioning unit needs repair which will cost over \$1000.00 (part \$856.00, labor around \$200 – highway is unable to do the work). Vicki and Elaine are closely monitoring spending so that they don’t go over budget since there is very little leeway. Vicki advised us that she spoke to Andy about a form for departments who put in requests for increases in hours or operating expenses through the budget process. He said they don’t have one but that it may be a good idea for the future.

Office/Director’s Report

GATRA – Vicki stated that she was upset about the Reporter article. There are some points of clarification she would like to discuss. She would like to restate a few things and review the process of the events concerning GATRA.

This proposal came from GATRA not from her. Is there anyone who did not realize this?

The members present understood the proposal was from GATRA.

At the April 2009 she agreed with the Board’s decision to table this and request that nothing be signed without Board approval. Is there anyone who felt that she did not agree with the decision? No members felt she did not agree.

The Reporter article made it look as though there is dissension among us. Is there anyone who feels that way? The members present do not feel dissension among us.

The article stated she worked for the town not the COA. She stated that she is paid by the town but she works for the seniors and the community.”Is there anyone who thinks I am not an advocate? “All members present agree that Vicki is an advocate for the seniors and the community.

She said “I was upset about the article because I felt it was damaging to me and our Board. It’s important for the seniors and the community to know that we are united; we are a team, and that our primary goal is to advocate for them. Frank Mortimer verbally attacked me after the meeting for saying his article was wrong. “

All agreed with Vicki that our job is to advocate for the senior.

At the meeting on 5/5, GATRA agreed that they could not provide what I refer to as 'senior transportation as opposed to public transportation'. Frank threw out another proposal at the end of the meeting but said he needed to see what the other towns (Norfolk and Wrentham) were going to do in response to his letter before he could come up with another proposal. To date I haven't heard anything from GATRA."

Vicki attended the Director's of Norfolk County (DON's) meeting on Tuesday and the other directors also report that they have not had any follow up to their town's GATRA meetings to date.

All of the Department Heads attended a meeting at the Public Safety building with Pauline Clifford and Fire Chief Roger Hatfield about Foxboro's emergency response plan. This was the first of many planning meetings where we will all be participating in an 'All- Hazards Protocol'. We were asked to think of what resources we have to offer. Vicki told the group the Senior Center had the ability to mobilize non-clinical volunteers, like those who help with the flu clinics, retired nurses and other retired health care professionals that may want to be part of the Medical Reserve Corps. (MRC) If the situation needed, we could find grief counselors. She also advised that the Stadium would be the first and main site, the High School would be secondary site in case of emergency. Vicki asked if anyone had any additional suggestions.

#### Events

- The Repositioning cruise went well overall. We had some lost luggage and some damaged luggage. One senior hurt her hand while handling her luggage. There were general complaints about the luggage transfers and the transportation from the airport to the pier that I have relayed to NCL and to the tour group. One person fell without serious injury.
- The bone density screening had about 15 participants.
- The Ham & Bean supper was considered a success by the Friends.
- Thank you to Wendy and all who helped with the Men's Breakfast on 4/23. Thank you to all who helped with the Men's Breakfast on 5/14.
- Thank you to Joanne and everyone who helped her with the Yard, Plant & Bake sale.

#### Upcoming Events

- Stop & Shop cake decorating class today.
- The BGF will be having their end of the year party on 5/26. Kathy Hickey requested to use the grille for their cookout. Vicki spoke to Andy and he said he thought it would be okay under adult supervision.
- Hanne Simonds from the Assessor's office will present tax exemptions for seniors/ veterans/ widows/ etc. on May 28<sup>th</sup>
- The Chorus and the Igo School children program will be on 6/3.
- The Uncommon Picnic will be on Thursday 6/11 from 11 – 2. I'll need volunteers to help with set up, cooking, serving and clean-up.
- Volunteers to help decorate, and ride in the van and the car, and walk in the parade for Founder's Day on Sat. 6/13.
- We now have a DVD library with cable filmed events, programs, and interviews.

### Unfinished Business

We do not have a representative on the HESSCO board. At the DON's meeting 3 of the 7 towns in attendance do not have reps. One person felt that the job description puts people off. Another said that she had someone turn down the position because there is an expectation that the board member is expected to offer financial support. HESSCO wants to meet with the DON's group. We'd like to offer feedback on this issue. Vicki asked what your thoughts are. (copy of HESSCO Board responsibilities in folders)

Joanne offered to get the Navy Jazz Band for the Vet's Breakfast on 11/12. Joanne will check on availability,

### New Business

Vicki advised that she was not going to be here on 6/18. Would the Board like to reschedule too following Thursday or another day the following week? The board changed the meeting to Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Friends

They had their meeting on Sat. 5/16. They have decided that they will meet on Saturday regularly starting in the fall

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ann and seconded by Jerry at 8:15pm. Next meeting is on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7: pm.

Executive Board Session was called. The meeting was to discuss a personnel matter and at that meeting a Travel Committee was formed. Joanne, Jerry and Elaine will serve.

This meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted

Ann Alibrandi